

- (b) exposing the photosensitive layer to curing radiation according to a patterned grayscale mask to convert the photosensitive layer into a patterned layer having a tapered edge;
- (c) removing material from the substrate according to the patterned layer to form a surface profile comprising a tapered edge that corresponds to the tapered edge of the patterned layer; and
- (d) sectioning the substrate into a plurality of transducer sliders.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, [further comprising, before step (a), assembling] wherein the substrate is assembled from a plurality of components before (a) that [after step (d)] will represent the plurality of transducer sliders after (d).

39. (Amended) The method of claim 35, [further comprising, before step (a), (e) cutting a] wherein a monolithic solid member is cut into the plurality of components before (a).

40. (Amended) A method for producing a transducer slider, comprising [the steps of]:

(a) coating a substrate with a radiation-sensitive layer;

(b) imagewise exposing the radiation-sensitive layer to radiation according to an intensity pattern;

(c) developing the image into the radiation-sensitive layer; and

(d) transferring the image into the substrate to form a transducer slider having a surface profile comprising a rounded corner.

REMARKS

No claims have been added or deleted by way of this amendment. Thus, upon entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-40 are pending. For the Examiner's convenience, the pending claims upon entry of this amendment are reproduced in Appendix A.

Claims 1-4, 14-16, 22, 34, 35, 39, and 40 have been amended to eliminate any ambiguity as to whether the claims are intended to recite step-plus-function limitations; such limitations are not intended. It should be evident that such rewording merely eliminates ambiguity, clarifies the

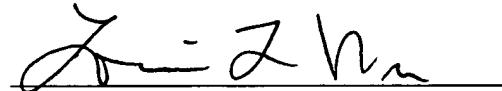
inventive subject matter, and does not introduce new matter. Thus, entry of the amendments is proper and requested.

The Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned attorney at (650) 851-8501, if there are any questions concerning this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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